

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /079 W
-----130735 290951Z /13

R 290840Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4613
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0997

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, LY
SUBJ: QADHAFI'S POSITION FOLLOWING HOSTILITIES

1. IN AFTERMATH OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES IMPORTANT QUESTION
IS HOW QADHAFI EMERGES IN TERMS OF HIS INTERNAL POSITION
AS WELL AS EXTERNAL PERCEPTIONS OF HIM BY FELLOW ARAB
AND REGIONAL STATES. LATTER DIFFICULT JUDGE FROM HERE,
HOWEVER, FROM LOCAL ARAB AMBASSADORS IT APPEARS THAT
SMALLER ARAB STATES MIGHT SYMPATHIZE WITH LIBYA.

2. ON INTERNAL SIDE IT IS CLEAR THAT QADHAFI WITH HELP
OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED MEDIA AND PERHAPS FOREIGN
CORRESPONDENTS (WHO ARE BEGINNING TO ARRIVE IN FORCE FOR
BRIEFINGS AND GUIDED TOURS) HOPES TO EMERGE THE HEROIC
LEADER OF A UNITED COUNTRY. HIS HOPES MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY
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WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

3. GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED MEDIA CAMPAIGN (TRIPOLI 0996)
REPORTING MASSIVE DEFEAT OF EGYPTIAN FORCES AND DESTRUCTION
EQUIPMENT IS IN HIGH GEAR. PUBLIC IS BEING URGED TO BELIEVE
THAT EGYPTIAN AGGRESSION RESULTED IN TOTAL ANNIHILATION OF
TWO EGYPTIAN BRIGADES, CAPTURE OF 500 PRISONERS AND THE

DOWNING OF 18 EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT. WHILE THE DAILY NEWSPAPERS
FEATURE 2-3 PAGE PHOTO SPREADS OF DESTROYED EGYPTIAN
EQUIPMENT, TV VIEWERS ARE NIGHTLY TREATED TO CONFESSIONS
BY EGYPTIAN POWS. THE LATTER EXPRESS DEEP REGRET FOR
HAVING ENGAGED LIBYAN BROTHERS AND ANGER AND SCORN FOR
SADAT WHO TRICKED THEM INTO THE SORRY SITUATION.

4. THIS CAMPAIGN IS LIKELY TO BE CONVINCING TO A LARGE
SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION. EVEN AMONG THE PROFESSIONAL
AND BUSINESS GROUPS USUAL MOST SOUR ON QADHAFI THERE ARE
INDICATIONS OF GROWING PRIDE IN THE ALLEGED ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE HITHERTO UNTESTED LIBYAN ARMED FORCES. THIS IS
ACCOMPANIED BY A GRUDGING ADMIRATION FOR QADHAFI FOR
HAVING SECURED LIBYA'S HONOR ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THUS
FOR THE SHORT TERM HIS POSITION IS LIKELY TO BE
STRENGTHENED AND OPPOSITION SUCH AS IT WAS SILENCED.

5. ON DOMESTIC FRONT NEW STRENGTH MAY ENABLE HIM PRESS
FORWARD WITH MORE EXTENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION "ISLAMIC
SOCIALISM" AS WELL AS TIGHTER POLITICAL CONTROLS. MORE
RELEVANT FOR US POLICY CONCERNS IS THAT IF QADHAFI'S
STRENGTHENED INTERNAL STATURE IS ACCOMPANIED BY MORE
RESPECTFUL ATTENTION FROM EXTERNAL ARAB BROTHERS, HIS
VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST (RIGID REJECTION OCCASSIONALLY
ACCOMPANIED BY HINTS OF FLEXIBILITY) WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN
MORE SERIOUSLY. THIS CONNECTION QADHAFI CHIEF AIDE
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TAHA SHARIF BEN AMER, TOLD WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR LAST WEEK
THAT LIBYA REMAINS IGNORANT OF U.S. VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST SINCE THEY
HAD NEVER BEEN DISCUSSED AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL WITH LIBYAN
GOV'T.
CARLE

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